

The centennial events in Wilmington in 1998 reflected a growing desire to face the past, yet the 1898 Centennial Foundation discovered the difficulty of commemorating an event that still inspired heated debate and disagreement over the facts. The failure to reach a consensus during the ceremonies in 1998 revealed that the traditional story remained entrenched in certain circles.⁵⁷ Time and perspective provided by novelists and historians had only weakened the authority of the old narrative; the landscape remained marked by Waddell's narrative.

⁵⁷ McLaurin, "Commemorating," pg. 47, 50, 55.